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MINING RECLAMATION

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YOU'D BE SURPRISED

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You may not know that on public lands in Nevada:

All mining and exploration projects on public lands MUST be reclaimed.

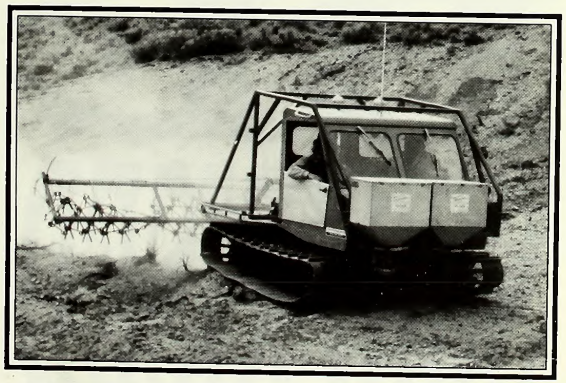
All new mining operations greater than five acres, on public and private lands in Nevada,

must submit a detailed mining and reclamation plan,

must be bonded to ensure compliance, and

must protect the environment.

Under the State of Nevada's new mining reclamation law, all operations must comply with numerous environmental protection programs. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the State of Nevada have developed a cooperative mine plan review process which streamlines the approval process



Katherine Graham

Specialized reclamation equipment at the Cortez Mine.

BLM and mining operators are continually looking for the best way to revegetate and reclaim mined lands.

Revegetation test plots at Cominco American's mine in Elko County, Nevada, help to determine what combination of seed, fertilizer, mulch and topsoil create the best revegetation results. BLM requires test plots at many mines in Nevada to evaluate local growing and rainfall conditions. These test plots enable mining operators and BLM to determine the most successful revegetation methods.

Nicholas Reiger

Cominco American revegetation test plot.

You might be surprised to learn that Nevada produced over 60% of the Nation's gold in 1990!

Cooperative efforts enhance Riparian Areas.

Mining companies are working with the public to restore and revitalize public lands - those affected by old mining operations and even lands not in mining areas. The Sonoma Creek stream bank stability project near Winnemucca demonstrates how cooperation among the various users of the public lands can enhance riparian areas in Nevada. Mining industry, ranching and government people all volunteered, with BLM, to build gabions and stream structures to improve the aquatic habitat of Sonoma Creek.

BLM, public land user groups and the mining industry plan more cooperative efforts in the future. BLM invites the public to help identify and participate in these activities.

Osborne Casey

Miners, ranchers and BLMers volunteer to aid in the enhancement of riparian areas.

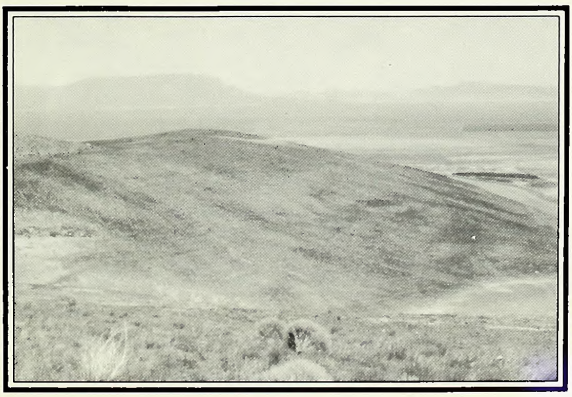
Cyanide Management

Cyanide is a toxic chemical which is used in most gold and silver mining operations. BLM, again in cooperation with Nevada's state agencies, such as the Nevada Department of Wildlife and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, require that mining operations using cyanide, do so in an environmentally sound manner.

All new ponds containing lethal concentrations of cyanide must be netted or detoxified to prevent wildlife deaths. All operations using cyanide are inspected at least quarterly by BLM reclamation/ compliance specialists.

Gold or silver ore leached with cyanide must be rinsed to reduce cyanide levels to safe standards upon abandonment. Leach facilities are engineered to prevent any ground or surface water contamination.

All exploration, mine and reclamation plans must be reviewed under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.



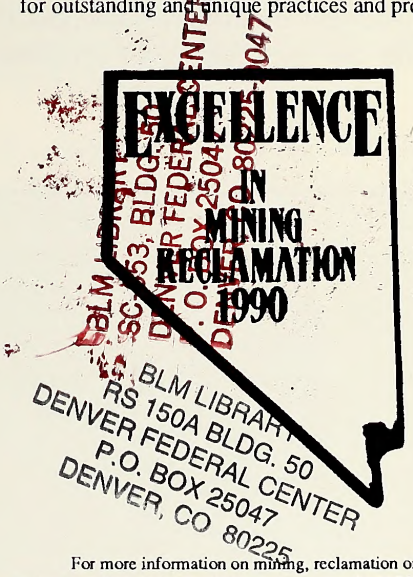
Larry Steward

Final reclamation at the Pinson Mine.

Excellence in Mining Reclamation

In 1990,
Governor Bob Miller of Nevada
awarded three
"Excellence in Mining Reclamation"
awards to
exploration and mining operations
in Nevada.

Pinson Mine, Borealis Mine and
Independence Mining Co.
were recognized
for outstanding and unique practices and projects.



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For more information on mining, reclamation or environmental controls on mining, contact your local BLM office or the Nevada State Office in Reno, Division of Mineral Resources.

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